

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, in this application.

1. (currently amended) A process for determining the presence or absence of an antimicrobial residue in a sample of an egg which process consists of ~~comprises~~:

- (i) contacting the sample of an egg, wherein the egg is not coagulated, with a test composition comprising a test microorganism suitable for being used in a method for determining the presence or absence of an antimicrobial residue;
- (ii) inactivating a compound present in the uncoagulated egg sample that is capable of inhibiting growth of the test microorganism leading to false positive results absent said inactivating step by heating the contacted uncoagulated egg sample and test composition for a sufficient time interval to inactivate said compound without inactivating the antimicrobial residue; ~~to be detected; and followed by~~
- (iii) incubating the contacted sample and test composition; and
- (iv) detecting growth of the test microorganism; ~~to determine whether microbial growth occurs;~~

whereby the absence of ~~microbial~~ growth determines ~~indicates~~ the presence of at least one antimicrobial residue, and the presence of ~~microbial~~ growth determines ~~indicates~~ the absence of any antimicrobial residue.

2. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein said heating is to a temperature of from 70°C to 100°C.

3. (previously presented) The process according to claim 2, wherein said heating is to a temperature of from 75°C to 85°C.

4. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein said heating is from 2 to 20 minutes.

5. (previously presented) The process according to claim 4, wherein said heating is from 10 to 15 minutes.

6. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the test composition comprises the test microorganism, nutrients and one or more indicators of microbial growth present in an agar medium.

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12. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein said compound inhibiting microbial growth is lysozyme.

13. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the uncoagulated egg sample is homogenized prior to step (i).

14. (currently amended) A process for determining presence or absence of an antimicrobial residue in a sample of an egg which process consists of ~~comprises~~:

- (i) contacting the sample of an egg, wherein the egg is not coagulated, with a test composition comprising a test microorganism suitable for being used in a method for determining the presence or absence of an antimicrobial residue;
- (ii) inactivating lysozyme present in the uncoagulated egg sample by heating the contacted uncoagulated egg sample and test composition for a sufficient time to inactivate said lysozyme without inactivating the antimicrobial residue; ~~to be detected; and~~
- (iii) incubating the contacted sample and test composition; and ~~to determine whether microbial growth occurs~~
- (iv) detecting growth of the test microorganism, wherein the absence of microbial growth determines ~~indicates~~ the presence of at least one antimicrobial residue and the presence of microbial growth determines ~~indicates~~ the absence of any antimicrobial residue.

15. (previously presented) The process according to claim 14, wherein said heating is to a temperature of from 70°C to 100°C.

16. (previously presented) The process according to claim 15, wherein said heating is to a temperature of from 75°C to 85°C.

17. (previously presented) The process according to claim 14, wherein said heating is from 2 to 20 minutes.

18. (previously presented) The process according to claim 17, wherein said heating is from 10 to 15 minutes.

19. (previously presented) The process according to claim 14, wherein the test composition comprises the test microorganism, nutrients and one or more indicators of microbial growth present in an agar medium.

20. (previously presented) The process according to claim 14, wherein the uncoagulated egg sample is homogenized prior to step (i).